

NEW YORK

HISTORY

Native nations, Dutch traders, English colonists and newcomers from around the world each helped build New York.

The First Peoples

People have lived in New York for more than 10,000 years. The Lenape and Mohican lived along the Hudson River and the coast. Five nations lived across the middle and west: the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca. Together they are the Haudenosaunee, also called the Iroquois. Families shared long bark houses called **longhouses**. They grew corn, beans and squash. The five nations joined in a **confederacy** to keep peace among themselves.

Dutch and English

In 1609, Henry Hudson sailed up the river that now has his name. He worked for a Dutch company. The Dutch built trading posts where Albany and New York City stand now. Their **colony** was called New Netherland. The Haudenosaunee sold furs to the Dutch for guns, cloth and tools. In the 1600s they fought the Huron and other nations over the fur trade and won. England took the colony in 1664. Enslaved Africans cleared land and built roads and walls there. New York ended slavery in 1827.

The Revolution

British troops captured New York City in 1776 and held it until 1783. In 1777, Americans won the Battle of Saratoga, and a British army surrendered. After that, France joined the American side. The war split the Haudenosaunee. Most Oneida fought beside the Americans. Most Mohawk and Seneca fought beside the British. In 1778, Mohawk and Seneca warriors and

British rangers attacked Cherry Valley and killed more than 40 settlers and soldiers. In 1779, an American army burned about 40 Haudenosaunee towns and their cornfields.

A New State

After the war, the Haudenosaunee nations signed **treaties** that gave up most of their land. Many Mohawk and Cayuga moved to Canada. Others stayed, and the Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and other nations have their governments in New York today. New York became the 11th state on July 26, 1788. George Washington became the first president in New York City in 1789.

Steam, Canals and Rails

In 1807, Robert Fulton's steamboat traveled up the Hudson from New York City to Albany. The Erie Canal opened in 1825 and tied the Great Lakes to the ocean. Railroads soon followed the same path. New York City grew into the largest city in the United States.



Building New York

Millions of people from Europe and other places landed in New York. Many stayed to work in clothing shops, on docks and in factories. Workers finished the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883 and the first subway line in 1904. The Empire State Building opened in 1931. Upstate, factories in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse made steel, cameras and machines.

NEW YORK THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Red Jacket	Seneca speaker who met Washington
Harriet Tubman	Guide to freedom who lived in Auburn
Susan B. Anthony	Rochester leader for women's votes
Theodore Roosevelt	Born in New York City. The 26th president.
Jonas Salk	New Yorker who made a polio vaccine

WORDS TO KNOW

longhouse	a long bark house for many families
confederacy	nations that agree to work together
colony	a place ruled by a faraway country
treaty	an agreement between nations